

D4 7. (Amended) The composition of claim 6 wherein said microemulsion is selected from the group consisting of an oil-in-water microemulsion, a water-in-oil microemulsion, an oil-in-water-in-oil microemulsion and a water-in-oil-in-water microemulsion.

D5 10. (Amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said fatty acid is selected from a group consisting of arachidonic acid, oleic acid, lauric acid, caprylic acid, capric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, dicaprate, tricaprate, monoolein, dilaurin, glyceryl 1-monocaprate, 1-dodecylazacycloheptan-2-one, an acylcarnitine, an acylcholine, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

D6 12. (Amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said bile salt is selected from the group consisting of cholic acid, dehydrocholic acid, deoxycholic acid, glucolic acid, glycholic acid, glycodeoxycholic acid, taurocholic acid, taurodeoxycholic acid, chenodeoxycholic acid, ursodeoxycholic acid, sodium tauro-24,25-dihydro-fusidate, sodium glycodihydrofusidate, polyoxyethylene-9-lauryl ether and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (Amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said penetration enhancer is a combination of at least one fatty acid and at least one bile salt.

D7 15. (Amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of EDTA, citric acid, a salicyclate, an *N*-acyl derivative of collagen, laureth-9, an *N*-amino acyl derivative of a beta-diketone and a mixture thereof.

17. (Amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sodium lauryl sulfate, polyoxyethylene-9-lauryl ether, polyoxyethylene-20-cetyl ether, a perfluorchemical emulsion and a mixture thereof.

D8 18. (Amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said non-chelating non-surfactant is selected from the group consisting of unsaturated cyclic ureas, 1-alkyl-alkanones, 1-alkenylazacyclo-alkanones, steroidal anti-inflammatory agents and mixtures thereof.

D9 20. (Amended) The composition of claim 19 wherein said carrier compound is selected from the group consisting of polyinosinic acid, dextran sulfate, polycytidic acid, and 4-acetamido-4'-isothiocyano-stilbene-2,2'-disulfonic acid.

~~46. (Amended) A composition comprising an oligonucleotide in oral dosage form, wherein said oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified covalent linkage.~~

~~48. (Amended) The composition of claim 46 wherein said modified covalent linkage is selected from the group consisting of a phosphorothioate linkage, a phosphotriester linkage, a~~

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Cont methyl phosphonate linkage, a methylene(methylimino) linkage, a morpholino linkage, an amide linkage, a polyamide linkage, a short chain alkyl intersugar linkage, a cycloalkyl intersugar linkage, a short chain heteroatomic intersugar linkage and a heterocyclic intersugar linkage.

DIS 52. (Amended) The composition of claim 46 wherein said oral dosage form is selected from the group consisting of tablets, and capsules.

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DIS 55. (Amended) The composition of claim 46 wherein said nucleic acid is a ribozyme or a peptide nucleic acid.

56. (Amended) The composition of claim 46 further comprising an enteric material that substantially prevents dissolution of said tablets, or capsules in a mammalian stomach.

DIS 58. (Amended) The composition of claim 57 wherein said enteric coating is selected from the group consisting of acetate phthalate, propylene glycol, and sorbitan monoleate.

DIS 64. (Amended) The composition of claim 63 wherein said excipient is polyethyleneglycol.